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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.¹

— The French Association for the Advancement of Science held its session this year at Nancy. Thirty-two savans contributed papers upon engineering and mathematics, forty-four upon physics and chemistry, fifty-eight upon the natural sciences, and fifty-nine on economics, some contributing several papers. The *Revue Scientifique* (Aug. 14) prints in full the address of the president, M. Friedel, upon the progress of chemistry and mineralogy; that of M. E. Collignon, secretary, upon the history of the association during the year; that of M. A. Volland, mayor of Nancy, and that of M. E. Galante, treasurer, upon the finances of the association. From the first of these discourses it appears that spinel, corundum, and rubies have been manufactured artificially, and that the false rubies are not infrequent in the market. The last meeting, held at Grenoble, received a total of 342 communications, 166 of which were upon the natural sciences. Fourteen members were lost by death during the year, including MM. Bouquet, Bouley, Jamin, Robin and Dechambre. The number of associates is kept up to three thousand eight hundred.

Among the papers read in the natural history section were those of M. Cartailhac, on sepulchres of the stone age, etc.; of M. Chatin, on the flora of Paris and Dauphiné; of F. Lataste, on the dentary system of Hyrax; of Manouvrier, on the delimitation of anthropology; of Mortillet, on criminal anthropology, and of Testut, on "microcéphales." A number of distinguished foreigners were present at the meeting. M. Cartailhac drew attention to the prevalence of burial after decomposition of the soft parts. In the reindeer age this was usual. In Spain the body of the late king lies in "el putrido" until the death of his successor. An interesting discussion on wheat production took place in the agricultural section. The wheat growers of Europe regard with anxiety the increase of the wheat production of Hindostan. Some interesting excursions were taken, one to a spot upon German soil was frustrated by the ignorant fussiness of the local German authorities. The next meeting of the association will be held at Toulouse, that of 1888 at Oran, Algeria.

— The new Gogebic Iron range is located parallel with the shore of Lake Superior and about forty miles distant, equi-exposed in Michigan and Wisconsin. There are two veins running very near to each other that average 25 to 160 feet in width and are of unknown depth. The ore is all within the Bessemer limit, varying about five per cent at the surface but assuming an equality below. The veins head nearly south at an angle of thirty degrees from the perpendicular. The quality averages sixty-seven per cent pure hematite and is soft and crumbling. The opening of the range

¹ Edited by WM. HOSEA BALLOU, 265 Broadway, New York.

has caused an unprecedented migration, 15,000 settlers having located there during fifteen months. The range has been exposed for nearly sixty miles, cropping out on the surface of the mountains and disappearing to 250 feet below in the valleys. The depth of the ore in the valleys is explained by its soft texture, the water having swept it away, after which soil filled in and covered it.

— Messrs. J. B. Lippincott Company have in press a "Manual of North American Birds," by the eminent ornithologist, Professor Robert Ridgway, curator, Department of Birds, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. The work is to contain some 435 illustrations suitably executed, and will conform to the geographical limits, classification, numeration and nomenclature adopted by the American Ornithological Union. We doubt not it will be one of the most important, thorough and original contributions to the literature of the subject which has ever appeared, and presume that naturalists and sportsmen alike will find in it an invaluable aid.

— The output of the iron ore mines of the Lake Superior region will be about 3,000 000 tons for the season of 1886, or one-third larger than in any other past year.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, Dec. 18, 1885.—Professor Cope presented for the Transactions "A Chemical Study of *Yucca angustifolia*" by Miss H. C. de S. Abbott.

Jan. 1, 1886.—Professor Allen made a communication on the result of experiments on electric light used in photographing animals in motion.

Professor Cope presented a paper on the Intercentrum of the Terrestrial Vertebrata; also another by Dr. Alfredo Dugés, of Guanajuato, entitled "Sur le *Rhinocheilus antonii*."

Jan. 15.—Mr. Lesley read a paper on the evident Bedouin origin of the *Shedi* deity in the Hebrew Scriptures, commonly translated "the Almighty." He drew the conclusion that it bore a manifest relationship to the deity *Seti* introduced into Egypt and Palestine from Arabia.

Mr. Lesley also communicated a revision of the section of the Le Roy (Chemung) beds in Bradford county, giving additions to the list of its fossils, and extending it downward nearly 350 feet, to include a rich horizon.

Mr. Ashburner made a communication showing the course of the barometer during the storm of Jan. 8th.

Dr. Persifor Frazer spoke upon the application of composite photography to handwriting.

Dr. H. Allen exhibited an example of *Chlamydophorus truncatus*.